

quarters under DOT as well as MTNL New Delhi as already mentioned at para (a) above

(e) Deptt. of Post :

Time for completion will be fixed at the time of award of work for construction.

Dept. of Telecom. :

Provision of these facilities in all old DOT quarters at New Delhi will be considered to be commenced from the financial year 1997-98 and their completion will depend upon availability of funds and feasibility. Similarly provision of these facilities in quarters under MTNL New Delhi is likely to be completed in the Financial Year-1997-98.

[English]

Recognition to Belur as International Railway Station

1143 SHRI ANIL BASU Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware of the long standing demand for recognition to Belur as International Railway Station

(b) if so the details thereof

(c) whether it is also a fact that visitors/tourists from different parts of the country and abroad are visiting Belur Math daily and

(d) if so the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to give due importance to Belur railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) to (d) On Indian Railways there is no nomenclature as International Railway Station. Passenger amenities on the station are however provided on the basis of tourist importance and volume of passenger traffic handled at the station and these are further augmented as and when so warranted depending on the growth in traffic subject to availability of funds and relative priorities. Most of the passengers travelling ex-Belur are daily commuters as Belur is a suburban station of Howrah Division. However to cater to visiting tourists of Belur Math an additional booking office has been provided on the Up platform of Belur railway station.

Backlog of Unfilled Reserved Posts

1144 SHRI K D SULTANPURI Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the position of backlog of unfilled posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in the beginning of current year in Railways;

(b) whether the backlog has been cleared so far; and

(c) if not the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) Detailed below are the shortfall of SC/ST vacancies in recruitment categories existing as on 30.6.96 on the Railways

	SC	ST
Group C	1010	1057
Group D	1251	1985

(b) and (c) As per the Department of Personnel & Training's directives a Special Recruitment Drive has been launched from 15.7.96 to wipe out the shortfall in recruitment categories existing as on 30.6.96

In the above Special Recruitment Drive the following shortfall has been identified for clearance:

	SC	ST
Group C	936	950
Group D	1183	1646

The Drive will be completed by 31.3.1997.

Dissatisfaction of Foreign Tourists due to Prohibition

1145 SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the dissatisfaction of foreign tourists due to prohibition in some States.

(b) if so the details thereof

(c) whether the tourism industry may be affected and inflow of foreign tourists may be declined due to prohibition in States

(d) if so the reaction of the Government thereto, and

(e) the steps taken to save tourism industry from any adverse impact?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA)

(a) There are no reports received in the Department to this effect.

(b) Does not arise

(c) Foreign Tourist arrivals has increased by 7.6% from January to October 1996 over the corresponding period of the preceding year.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.